Amendment to the Specification

On p.1, replace the paragraph starting on line 18 with the paragraph below:

However, it has since been demonstrated that dsRNAs can, transiently, be involved in phenomena of regulation of expression, as well as in the initiation of the synthesis of interferon by cells (Declerq et al., *Meth. Enzymol.* 78:291 (1981). Wu-Li, *Biol. Chem.* 265:5470 (1990)). In addition, dsRNA has been reported to have anti-proliferative properties, which makes it possible also to envisage therapeutic applications (Hubbell~~Aubel~~ et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA* 88:906 (1991)). For example, synthetic dsRNA has been shown to inhibit tumor growth in mice (Levy et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA*, 62:357-361 (1969)), is active in the treatment of leukemic mice (Zeleznick et al., *Proc. Soc. Exp. Biol. Med.* 130:126-128 (1969)); and inhibits chemically-induced tumorigenesis in mouse skin (Gelboin et al., *Science* 167:205-207 (1970)). However, when the early effects of dsRNA were first seen, the mechanism responsible for the effect was unknown, and thus, could not be well controlled. Moreover, the production of dsRNA was considered difficult.